

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Morrow et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0064771) in view of IGT-Euronews Winter 1997 edition. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Morrow teaches a reconfigurable gaming machine that has at least one video screen but preferably three. One screen displays a primary game and the other two screens preferably display pay tables, a secondary game or artwork related to the primary and/or secondary game. The content of the video screens is reconfigurable. The content may be downloaded over a network connecting a plurality of gaming machines to a central computer or the content of several different games may be stored locally within the gaming machine. The video content is automatically reconfigured in response to a trigger. The trigger can be a wagered amount, an identity of a player, a speed at which a game is played, a casino operator or a player.

IGT-Euronews teaches a gaming machine that affords a player a choice of 16 game themes with a total of 56 paytables from which the player may choose.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a plurality of reels for variably displaying each of a plurality of symbols thereon; an image display device for displaying an image that differs from the symbols of the reels; a payout device for payout; and, a controller for executing a predetermined program and controls the reels, the image display device, and the payout device. Claim 1 recites that the controller operates a lottery of a winning combination according to the predetermined program, the controller controls and stops a changing display of the reel based on the winning combination obtained by the lottery, the controller allows the payout on the basis of an amount of payout set to the winning combination when a stop mode of the reel matches a symbol combination of the winning combination, the controller allows the image display device to display the winning combination and an amount of payout while changing the amount of payout, the controller has a plurality of kinds of payout data with

respect to one kind of game and applies one kind of payout data based on a selected operation for the game to be played; and the controller allows the image display device to display a password input screen.

It is respectfully submitted that none on the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, none on the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that a controller allows the image display device to display a password input screen. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 8, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying a plurality of symbols, a lottery device for operating a lottery of a winning combination, a stopping control device for controlling and stopping the variable display device on a basis of a result of the lottery, a payout device for payout on the basis of an amount of the payout set for the winning combination when a stopped state of the variable display device reaches a symbol combination equal to the winning combination, a payout display device for displaying the winning combination and at least the amount of payout to be paid out and a payout changing device for changing the amount of payout by applying one kind of payout data from a plurality of kinds of payout data with respect to one kind of game, based on a selected operation for the game to be played. Claim 8 recites that the controller allows the image display device to display a password input screen.

It is respectfully submitted that none on the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 8 as amended. Specifically, none on the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that a controller allows the image display device to display a password input screen. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully

submitted that claim 8 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 9-12 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 13 depends from claim 8 and includes all of the features of claim 8. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 8 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 12-17 also include features not shown in the applied art. For instance, claim 14 recites that the controller is operative to cause a support menu and password input screen to be displayed on the image display device such that, after an operator enters a correct password on the password input screen displayed by the image display device, the support menu is displayed on the image display device so that the operator selects from the support menu at least a first mode with the at least first mode enabling the operator to at least change the amount of payout from a first payout amount to a second payout amount being different from the first payout amount.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.


In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone

number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (two months)
 Request for Continued Examination

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